

Stirring Up the Mohammedans---How American Colleges Are Arousing the Orient---Turkish Students Who Went on Strike



MEN WHO WILL RUN THE NEW TURKEY.
Group of Beirut students, Dr. Howard Bliss at front, in the center.
BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.
Beirut.

Do you realize how American education is revolutionizing the Orient? It has been one of the chief forces which have modernized Egypt. It has much to do with the great revolution in Persia, and it is the basis of the reorganization now going on throughout the whole Turkish empire. The first schools of Egypt were started by United Presbyterian missionaries, and their educational institutions now cover the Nile valley. They have schools in the Sudan and a great American college at Assiout, several hundred miles above Cairo. The college was started in a donkey stable about forty years ago, and it has been turning out graduates ever since. It has now more than 1,000 students, and is housed in ten large two-story buildings, and it has recently completed three of the finest halls to be found in the far East. These are situated just outside Assiout, at the junction of the Nile with the great canal north of the city, and by the time this letter is published they will be finished and in active operation. The college has about 300 women, and it is associated with the new Girls' Academy which was dedicated at Cairo during the stay of President Roosevelt.

The American College in Egypt. I visited the college at Assiout not long ago. It is full to overflowing, and notwithstanding the new structure just completed it needs more money and more buildings. It has a great prestige throughout the Nile valley and its efficiency, with a little money, could be easily doubled.

The college is said to give a better education than the government institutions, and that at the lowest possible cost. The institution is nominal for the poorest scholars it is only about \$1 a session in money, and the ordinary rate is about \$10 a year. The cost of the education varies with the taste of the students. There are of all classes from the sons of the poorest fellah to the highest pasha and richest merchants of the Nile valley. There are three kinds of accommodations, the cost of which ranges from \$25 a week. On the other hand, it can work his way through college, bringing his own food, and buying vegetables and fish at very low cost. Many of the boys bring their bread from home. It is made of ground corn or millet and baked in cakes as thick as a week. These cakes are toasted until they are as hard as stone, in which shape they will keep through the term. Before going into a meal the students dip their bread in hickory water set out for the purpose, and when soft, carry it with them to the table.

The Assiout institution has its graduates in all the government departments of Egypt. They are among the leading merchants of the country, and every town has numbers of them. Many are Copts and not a few are Mohammedans.



BUILDING THE NEW TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL IN SYRIA. DR. MARY EDDY STANDS AT THE RIGHT.

dans. I am told that there are more than 15,000 boys now being educated in the United Presbyterian schools and colleges.

How the Sultan Lost His Throne. Shortly before the Sultan Abdul Hamid was ousted by the young Turk party and carried to his prison in Salonika, where he now is, he referred bitterly to the work that Robert College had done in unsettling his empire. Said he: "That institution has cost me Bulgaria, and it is like to lose me my throne."

He was right. Robert College was founded in 1863 by a New York merchant named Robert, who gave a large part of his fortune to this institution. He was aided by the Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, D. D., who was, I think, the real organizer. Since then it has been turning out graduates, and they have largely formed the backbone which has brought about the new Turkey and the Young Turk party of today. Some of its graduates built up Bulgaria and organized the colleges and schools there. Others have been teaching in schools throughout the Turkish empire, many have acted as officers of the government, and to-day the best of the new Turks are among them.

Robert College has now 500 or 600 students. Including Mohammedans, Jews, Armenians and Russians, as well as representatives of the other nations about the teaching is non-sectarian. Although all are required to attend daily prayers and go to services Sunday, I understand that this college is now highly approved by the new government, but that the latter would like to have it incorporated as a Turkish

institution, subject to the laws of Turkey and with Turkish directors. To this the Americans naturally object. They say that they are organized under the laws of New York and they expect to stand by the rights which the foreign ownership gives them.

The Censorship of the Turks.

There is no doubt but that the Americans are sensible in preferring the protection of Uncle Sam to that of the Sultan. Conditions are bound to be unsettled in this part of the world for years to come. There will be revolutions and counter-revolutions before the Turks come down to a solid, substantial, modern government, and no one can tell when the old conditions of censorship may not be resumed. As it is now, the students can read what books they like, and there is little trouble as to the newspapers. They can go where they please without passports, and the new government is doing all it can to promote education.

It was far different under the regime of Abdul Hamid. In his time every newspaper was carefully looked over, and all sentences or words objectionable to the governmental critics were cut out. This was so of papers coming in through the mail as well as of the native papers. Here in Beirut a Sunday weekly is published, devoted largely to the life and sayings of our Saviour. The censors objected to it, saying: "The paper is a bad one, for in it they kill a King of the Jews every week. This might suggest the assassination of the Sultan, and we cannot permit it." Dr. Bliss, the president of the college at Beirut, not long ago imported an old copy of Shakespeare. It was kept at the customs house over the censor's objection. Said the latter: "Shakespeare is a bad book for the Turks. It has in it the story of a man named Macbeth, who killed a King. It would be a bad example for us."

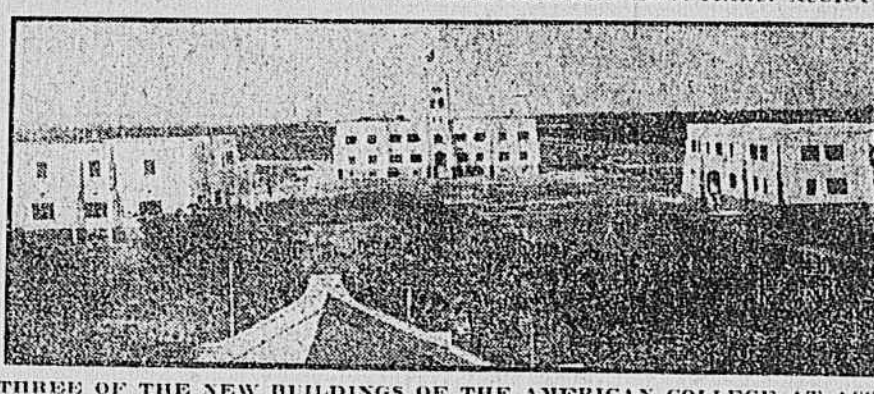
Dr. Bliss succeeded in getting his Shakespeare in by saying he had another copy of the same book, which as it was already in the country, could not be taken out, and he would be glad to trade this for the new copy. The censor consented, and he accepted the Shakespeare which cost a dollar and admitted the fine old edition instead. At another time some New Testaments sent to Constantinople were held back by one of the censors because of the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. Galata is one of the divisions of Constantinople, and the censor asked: "Who is this man Paul, and why is he writing to our people in Galata?" He was with difficulty persuaded that St. Paul was dead and that his letter was not the part of a living man. He then said: "I can tell you that a chemist was once kept out because a censor objected to the term H₂O, saying that it seemed to mean that Hamid II. (the Sultan, Abdul Hamid) amounted to nothing."

The Syrian College at Beirut. In addition to Robert College and the institution at Assiout, there is one here at Beirut which is quite as important as either of the others. I refer to the Syrian Protestant College, established by Americans in 1866, which since then has been the Harvard and Yale of the far East. It has had thousands of graduates, and its doctors and lawyers stand at the heads of their profession in Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Persia and India. It has 900 students, all Orientals, representing every part of the Levant.

This institution was founded by Presbyterians, but the instruction is non-sectarian. The faculty has about thirty-five professors, the most of them Americans, and it is a thoroughly up-to-date university. It has a medical department which, with its hospitals, treats something like 15,000 patients a year. It has physical, chemical and other laboratories, a large library and



COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAM, TWENTIETH CENTURY EGYPTIANS, ASSIOUT.



THREE OF THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE AT ASSIOUT, EGYPT. THIS INSTITUTION HAS 1,000 STUDENTS.

attended by about half a million Mohammedans from all parts of the Orient. At that time Mecca becomes a great camp-meeting or bazaar meeting, such as we farmers have in Virginia. The people come together and gossip. They discuss the crops and ask one another how they are getting along. Hassan Ali, of Egypt, says to Mohammedan, of Turkey, "How is business?" Are you making money, and how does your government treat you?" Mohammed replies that the Turks are taxed to death, but they hope for much under the new Sultan. Thereupon Hassan says that an English have cut down the taxes and that the church has plenty of money in its treasury. He tells how he has been able to send his boy to college, and that he hopes he will some day be an official. The Turk thereupon longs for a better government. At the same time the college students tell what they have learned, and as a result the twentieth century spirit of modern progress is stirring the Mohammedan world.

The Work of the Missions. In addition to the collegiate work, great advances in our civilization are being made by the Protestant missions. There are now thousands of native Christians in Syria, and from 75,000 to 100,000 native Christians in the empire of Turkey. The American missionaries alone have over 100 schools with 5,000 or 6,000 pupils, and the English have many more.

Right here in Beirut is the largest and most up-to-date publishing plant in the Orient. It belongs to the American mission, and it annually turns out tens of thousands of volumes of the Bible, of school text-books, and of others on religious and scientific subjects. Altogether, it has published more than 700 different works in Arabic, and it is estimated that it has printed approximately a billion pages on this trip around the world. Its Bibles are sold throughout the Mohammedan world.

The Tuberculosis in Syria. The medical missionaries are doing a great deal in all parts of the Orient. I have seen their hospitals everywhere on this trip around the world. They are to be found in all parts of India, far up the Nile Valley, and in the lead- ing of the Holy Land. One of the best I have visited is situated at Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee, being headed by Dr. Torrence, who has been there for the past thirty years. In talking with him, the question of tuberculosis came up, and he described the evils of the great white plague as they are found in his region on the very edge of the desert. He says tuberculosis is rare among the Bedouins, although

Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rip! Rah! Rip!
Boom! Ah! Boom! Ah!
S. P. C.

The boys have a silver cup which is contended for by the various athletic teams, and these Persians, Greeks, Syrians, Arabs, Egyptians, Armenians and Turks are being welded into a brotherhood by the hard knocks of football and the track.

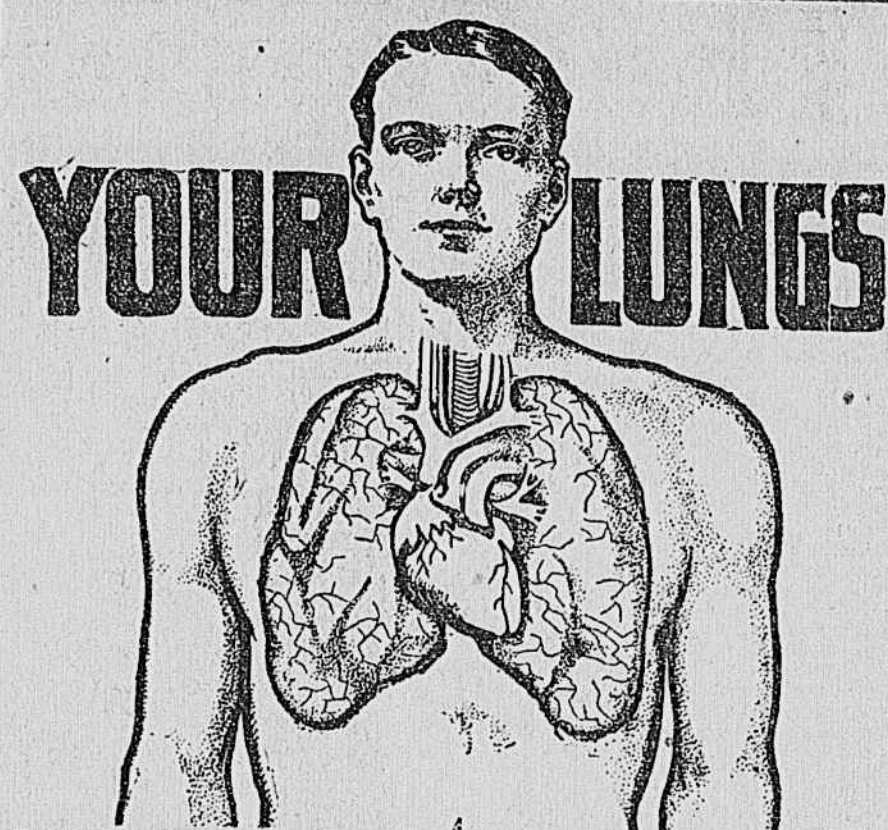
Civilizing the Mohammedans.

The Beirut College is an American college and a Christian college as well, but it does not attempt to proselytize and the Mohammedan can come to it without changing his religion. It insists only that every one who goes through its courses shall attend chapel and that the Bible be read. The Bible is one of the great influences in the work of the world. It is not long since the students, who believe in Mohammed, struck against these regulations. They refused to go to chapel and took an oath not to attend the Bible classes. The strike created a sensation, and for a time it seemed as though it might do serious damage. The faculty, however, headed by the president, Dr. Howard S. Bliss, insisted that the school was a Christian college. They demanded that all students must attend the religion services, and the result was that most of the strikers came in and the college has gone along on its original lines.

In talking about this to one of the Mohammedan students, Dr. Bliss said: "Our college was established to give the Mohammedan world the best that the Christian world has. Our aim is to make of you broad-minded, intelligent men whether you continue to be Moslems or Christians. We believe that the best thing we have is our religion, and we are bound to let you know what it is. Whether you accept it or not rests with yourself. If upon investigation you still think that Moslem religion the best we believe that the knowledge you have of our religion will make you a better and broader Moslem. Religion is for man, not man for religion, and we want you to have the training which will make each one of you the best man, whether he be Christian or Moslem."

To-day the Mohammedan student, attending the services, look upon them as largely educational, and they study the Bible as such.

The Spread of Education. The influence of colleges like this goes far and wide. The students come from villages all over the Turkish empire and from those of India and Persia, and as well as homes, and form a little hotbed for the growth of independent thought, and civilized ideas are spread in other ways. One of the great means of such distribution is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, which is



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They live out of doors and are in the purest of air all the time. He thinks that the disease is largely distributed by the cattle. About 50 per cent. of the cows have tuberculosis, and the people live chiefly on milk. Another doctor connected with that hospital tells me that Syria had no consumption until about twenty-five years ago, when the disease was brought in from the United States by natives who had emigrated to our country, contracted consumption and brought it back home. The Syrians had no idea what it meant, and it rapidly spread. The sanitary conditions of this part of the world are bad, the bacteria breed rapidly, and the disease is sweeping the country.

An American Hospital for Consumptives.

And this brings me to a great work which has just been started at Junenah, within a few miles of Beirut. I refer to the Tuberculosis Hospital, which is being built there by the Church of the Covenant of Washington City, and which is under the care of Dr. Mary Eddy, a young woman physician, who has become famous for her work as a medical missionary throughout the near East. Miss Eddy is the daughter of the Rev. William W. Eddy, who came to Syria about sixty years ago and remained here until his death among the Bedouins, although

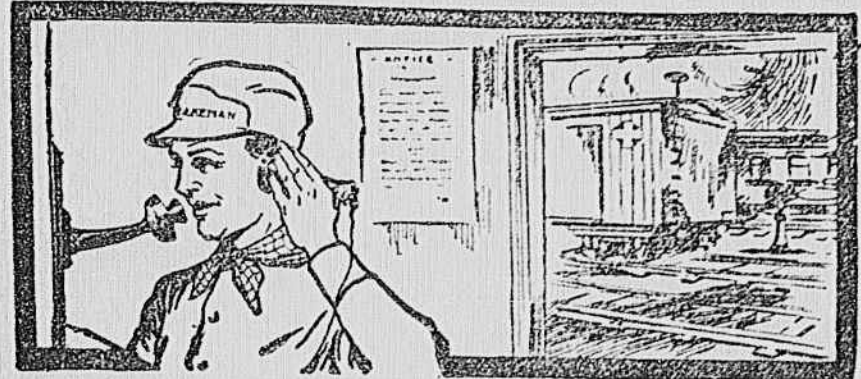
great medical skill, and moreover an expert upon all matters connected with tuberculosis and its treatment.

She is the only woman who has ever been granted an trade or certificate of protection from the Sultan authorizing her to practice as a doctor everywhere throughout his domain, and directing that all good Turks shall give her assistance as she goes on her way.

Miss Eddy has been working in Syria for years and has been fighting the spread of consumption as best she could with no place for her patients. The people have come and camped in tents near her home, waiting treatment, and the tents of the Bedouins where the hospital now is. It is only a year or so ago that the movement to erect this hospital began, and the buildings are now approaching completion. Among the largest givers to it have been Mrs. John Hay, the wife of the late Secretary of State, and the late Mrs. Gardiner Hubbard, the mother-in-law of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. So far the contributions are not equal to the needs of the institution, and much more money could be raised, if only a greater return.

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